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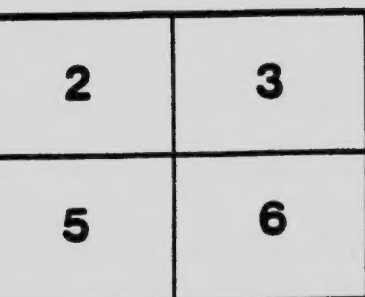
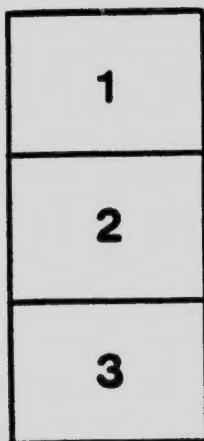
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# FACT vs. FICTION

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**Prohibitionist Misrepresentations  
Compared with Official Facts  
—What Advocates of Local  
Option and Prohibition  
say, and what Gov-  
ernment Returns  
Show**

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**Statistical Information on Conditions  
in the Province of Ontario**

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# **FACT VERSUS FICTION**

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## **PROHIBITIONIST MISREPRESENTATIONS COMPARED WITH OFFICIAL FACTS— WHAT ADVOCATES OF LOCAL OP- TION AND PROHIBITION SAY, AND WHAT GOVERNMENT RETURNS SHOW**

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### **A Handbook of Authentic Information on Conditions in the Province of Ontario**

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That the local option and prohibitionist campaign is one of the persistent distortion and flagrant misrepresentation is evident from the summary of facts here presented. Often both of these methods are joined with the most wonderful innocence of actual conditions.

So chronically habituated are prohibition agitators to the practise of making the wildest and most sweeping and unfounded statements, that they have become more reckless than ever before. They appear to have so slight an opinion of the intelligence of their audiences that they count upon their preposterous utterances being accepted without challenge or examination.

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The facts here given completely expose the falsity of their assertions. The accuracy of these facts cannot be disputed; every fact is taken from the official governmental returns and reports.

### **A Specimen Distortion—Effect of Drink on Mortality.**

**Fact No. 1.**—The prohibitionists loudly allege that liquor is yearly responsible for thousands of deaths in the Province of Ontario. For instance, the Rev. Mr. Chambers, Governor of Toronto Jail, made the bold, unqualified statement in a local option campaign at Galt that 5,000 deaths a year were due to alcohol.

Mr. Chambers must have been drawing on his exuberant imagination. The 1913 Report of the Registrar General of Ontario shows that of a total of 34,341 deaths in the Province from all causes in the year covered by that report, only 118 deaths were due to alcoholism, chronic and acute. The 1913 report of the Ontario Registrar General reveals that of a total of 32,160 deaths in the Province of Ontario in the year covered by the statistics, the small proportion of 149 deaths were caused by alcoholism. Very significant is the additional fact shown in the report that more than three-fourths of these alcoholic deaths took place in the rural districts which are often local option regions.

## Another Wild Assertion—Facts as to Insanity.

**Fact No. 2.**—Prohibitionists are incorrigibly addicted to the assertion that "liquor is the prime cause of insanity." If it is, the official reports ought to disclose it. What do the official statistics reveal?

The 1912 Report of the Inspectors of the Hospitals for Insane for the Province of Ontario show that of a total of 1,140 cases of insanity admitted during the year, only 64 cases were traceable to alcoholism, and that many of these alcoholic cases came from the non-license districts. Of the 1,140 cases of insanity 580 cases—or more than half of the total—were those of women.

The 1914 Report of the Inspectors of the Ontario Hospitals for Insane shows that of a total of 1,351 cases admitted during the year, only 79 cases—or less than six per cent of the whole—were due to alcoholism, many of the victims of which came from non-license territory.

The chief causes of the great bulk of insane cases were such factors as loss of friends, business troubles, mental strain, worry and overwork, religious excitement, love affairs, fright, nervous shock, various diseases, self injurious habits in no way related to liquor, senility and other such causes.

## **Lavish Promises—But Pauperism Keeps on Growing.**

**Fact No. 3.**—If there is any one exclusive monopoly that the advocates of prohibition claim, it is the explanation of what causes poverty and pauperism.

According to these repositories of universal knowledge, liquor is "the prolific cause of poverty." They promised that if the bar was abolished pauperism would cease. Every investigation made by social reformers, sociologists and political economists has shown that scanty wages under a high cost of living, and unemployment, and also accidents and casualties of workers are among the chief causes of poverty, but the prohibitionists still go on defying the facts.

In the Province of Ontario the number of licenses have been reduced in the last nine years from 2,745 to 1,711. Over a thousand bars in that time have been wiped out. If the prohibitionist contention is sound that the less bars there are the less pauperism there is, then Ontario should have less pauperism.

But the number of paupers in the County Houses of Refuge in the Province of Ontario, have increased from an average of 1,533 a year, five years ago, to an average of 1,851 a year at present. These figures do not comprise the paupers in the poor houses of Toronto, Ottawa and other cities.



This increase of paupers has taken place in the rural districts the population of which has fallen off more than 100,000 in the last ten years. Significantly, also the increase of paupers is most noted in the very counties which are almost wholly non-license or in which there are few licenses. Some of these counties are Brant, Oxford, Northumberland and Durham, Kent and others. On the contrary, counties which have many licenses and larger populations such as Essex, Lambton, Lanark and others, have a much less proportion of paupers.

Here are facts that prohibitionists cannot deny or evade by any smooth explanations.

### **More Profuse Promises, Yet Taxation Has Gone Up.**

**Fact No. 4.**—One notable point on which local optionists and prohibitionists have always laid the greatest stress and upon which they made the most elaborate promises has been that, if licenses were reduced or abolished, taxation for the cost of administration of justice, jails and police and for the support of the poor and other charities would be greatly reduced.

What are the facts? The 1913 Report of the Ontario Provincial Bureau of Industries shows that the burden of taxation for administration of justice, jails, police, etc., has increasingly gone up, notwithstanding the fact that more than 600 liquor licenses have been abolished in the last five years.

In 1900 the taxation for these purposes was \$1,084,909. The amount, according to the latest figures, reaches \$1,723,343 a year—an increase of nearly \$700,000 a year taxation for cost of justice, jails and police. As for the taxation for the support of the poor and other charities, it is now nearly \$800,000 a year—almost double what it was in 1900 and nearly \$300,000 a year more than it was in 1905.

#### **Millennium Further Away Than Ever—Great Increase of Drunks Under Local Option.**

**Fact No. 5.**—The contention of the prohibitionists has been that crime has been the result of licenses. Reduce or abolish bars, they effusively promised, and crime would disappear.

The 1914 Report of the Ontario Liquor License Bureau reveals that with the increase of Local Option Territory, the average number of commitments in Ontario has consecutively increased. From 1905 to 1909 inclusive, a total of 22,545 persons were committed to jail in Ontario for drunkenness. From 1910 to Jan. 1, 1915, the number of drunks committed to jail in Ontario was 34,942, an increase of 35%. In 1913 there were 8,363 commitments in the Province of Ontario for intoxication—an increase of 1,750 over the number committed in 1912. In 1914 the commitments numbered 8,848.

In the year 1912 alone there were 157 convictions in Ontario Local Option municipi-

palities for violating the local option by-laws and 132 other persons charged with the same offence were discharged because of insufficient evidence. Could anyone want better proof that the blind pigger and pocket peddler are doing a brisk and profitable business selling hard intoxicants? It should be remembered that so secretly and shyly is this traffic carried on that only a part of those engaged in it are detected and arrested.

**Twenty-five Thousand Bottles of Whiskey Seized. Where? In Prohibition Cobalt, Porcupine, Etc.**

**Fact No. 6.**—The operations of the blind pigger and pocket peddler in prohibition territory are lucidly seen in the reports of the Provincial Police relating to New Ontario.

In the last four years the Provincial Police have seized more than 25,000 bottles of whiskey, largely in the Cobalt and Porcupine districts. In addition to these 25,000 bottles there were also seized immense quantities of hard intoxicants in barrels and jugs, and also large quantities of "high wine."

For the benefit of the uninformed let it be explained that "high wine" is raw alcohol made usually from the refuse of the sugar factories. It is diluted with water, colored with bluestone, tobacco juice or other substance, put up in bottles and sold at an enormous profit by the hundreds of blind pigs and pocket peddlers in the mining districts.

Immense as have been the seizures by the active and vigilant Provincial Police, it is well known that so ingeniously and surreptitiously are hard liquors shipped in all kinds of disguises that the seizures represent only a part of the entire shipments.

### **Enormous Increase in Crime—More Promises Collapse.**

**Fact No. 7.**—Crime of all kinds, the prohibitionists have shouted, was entirely due to the bar and liquor. If the bar was abolished, they glibly urged, crime would decrease or cease. One has only to read the reports of the wardens of the Canadian penitentiaries to find that not liquor but unemployment and want are responsible for the great proportion of crimes. Evidently, prohibitionists have no use for facts.

In recent years more than 1,000 liquor licenses have been abolished in the Province of Ontario, more than 700 licenses have been cut off in the Province of Quebec, nine counties in the Province of New Brunswick have long been under the Scott Act, the whole of Nova Scotia (except the City of Halifax) and of Prince Edward Island have also long been under prohibition. Other parts of Canada have been under "dry" laws.

Yet the Dominion Government's report on Criminal Statistics shows that within five years the number of summary convictions in Canada have increased from 77,299 to 180,-

**960.** The convictions for drunkenness in the last five years have increased from 31,089 to 53,171.

In prohibition Nova Scotia, which has only one-sixth the population of Ontario, convictions for drunkenness have increased in the last five years from 2,975 to 3,693 in 1913. In other prohibition provinces the increases are similarly enormous.

The latest available Dominion Government returns disclose the ominous fact that in the previous year there were 4,775 convictions in Canada of blind piggers, pocket peddlers and other vendors of illicit liquors. Many more escaped detection. Of these 4,775 convictions, 1,032 were convicted in the Province of Quebec and 1,759 in the Province of Ontario.

The liquors they sold were hard intoxicants and of the most vicious kind; mild drinks such as beer are always driven out of prohibition territory because of their bulkiness in transportation, the difficulty of concealment and because of the fact that beer requires cooling and cannot be peddled about in the pocket or suit case like whiskey. Prohibition and vile whiskey go together—not a partnership but always an inseparable combination.

#### **Marked Growth in Immorality—An Explanation Due from Prohibitionists.**

**Fact No. 8.**—Another typical example of the extreme and foolish mis-statements of

prohibitionists is their indiscriminate claim that the bar is responsible for every evil including immorality.

Every Canadian, American and European legislative committee or other authoritative body that has investigated the subject has found that where low rates of wages are paid to girls and women coupled with their inability to meet the actual cost of living, that state of affairs frequently leads to the adoption of a life of immorality. Although this fact is generally known to all intelligent people, prohibitionists profess not to know it. There are other factors, also, productive of immorality—factors that have nothing to do with the question of licenses or bars.

If bars cause immorality, then let prohibitionists, if they can, explain the following facts: Since 1907 a total of more than 700 licenses have been cut off in Ontario. Four hundred and sixty-six municipalities, as has been already noted, are without liquor licenses, yet the annual reports of the Registrar General of Ontario show that the number of illegitimate children born in Ontario steadily increased from 819 in 1908 and a somewhat less number in 1909 to 1,077 in 1910, to 1,087 in 1911 and to 1,293 in 1912 and to 1,394 in 1913, an increase of 70 per cent. over the figures of 1908.

This increase is all the more striking in view of the fact that in the last ten years Ontario's population has increased only twenty per cent., allowing for the decrease

in the rural population of more than 100,000 during that period.

The figures here given as to the number of illegitimate births are only those reported to the Registrar General; many more are never reported. Practically one-half of these births out of wedlock occurred in the rural districts which are generally local option. Many of such births nominally take place in the cities for the politic reason that the cities furnish a safer and securer place for self-protection to unfortunate country victims.

But it has been reserved to prohibitionists to explain debt on the ground of drink. What have they to say of the prevalence of chattel mortgages in districts where there are no bars?

### **Total Abstainers in Prison—What's Wrong With Prohibition Theory?**

**Fact No. 9.**—"Drink fills the prisons." This has been a stalwart and threadbare prohibition cry.

The 1913 Report of the Minister of Justice shows that in 1912 no less than 281 total abstainers were committed to the penitentiaries for various serious crimes, making a total of 1,666 total abstainers sent to the Dominion penitentiaries in the last six years.

Of 4,916 other prisoners sent to the penitentiaries in the last six years and classified as temperate, a very large number were prac-

tically abstainers from liquor; they drank only occasionally, and many rarely. And of the 3,695 other convicts, classified as intemperate, who were committed to the penitentiaries in the last six years, considerable numbers came from prohibition provinces. For example, 106 prisoners, convicted of serious crimes, were, in a single year, sent to Dorchester Penitentiary from the prohibition districts of Nova Scotia, and many other prisoners were from Prince Edward Island and the "dry" districts in Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick. Numerous of the prisoners in Kingston Penitentiary come from rural counties in Ontario under local option; the two occupations predominating among the Kingston convicts are farmers numbering 46 and laborers aggregating 158.

### **Per Capita Consumption of Hard Liquors Higher Than Ever.**


**Fact No. 10.**—If local option and prohibition prohibit, why is it that the per capita consumption of spirituous liquors is now higher in Canada than at any time in the last twenty-eight years?

This is a fact disclosed in the 1913 Dominion Inland Revenue Department Report. Thirteen years ago the consumption of spirituous liquors per head of the population was only .701 gallons. In 1913 it was 1.112 gallons per head. In the fiscal year 1912-1913, the distilleries in Canada produced 1,674,052



more gallons of whiskey than in the previous year, and much less is being exported than formerly. This means that more is used in Canada. Considering the boast of the Dominion Alliance that a large part of Canada is under local option or prohibition, it should explain, (if it can) why the per capita consumption of spirituous liquors has so enormously increased.

**MARK YOUR BALLOT THUS:—**

	
<b>For LOCAL OPTION</b>	<b>Against LOCAL OPTION X</b>



